VIETNAM COURIER

Nov. 2
1970
No. 293
7th Year

INFORMATION WEEKLY— E.O.: 46 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI—DRVN

Initial Failure of Nixon's War

A commentary by Quan Doi Nhan Dan (*People's Army*) *of October 22, 1970*

THE waves of devastating general offensives and widespread uprisings started by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in early 1968 have forced the US aggressors and their henchmen to change their strategy.

After entering the White House, Nixon speedily turned Johnson's war into his own war. He has been pursuing it under a new strategy — the "Vietnamization program" — which is characterized by the following:

— With regard to battle order, the US troops will gradually switch their role as hard core in the "limited war" strategy to that of a combat support force in the "Vietnamization" program. The puppet troops will gradually become the main combat force in a "Vietnamized" war.

—Strategically, the US make "pacification" and control of the heavily populated areas the main alternative to the "search-and-destroy" strategy.

The foremost strategic objective of "Vietnamization" is to foster a strong subservient machine, both militrry and political, capable of maintaining South Viet Nam in the orbit of US neo-colonialism. With its "Vietnamization" policy the US wants to kill two birds with one stone: to give the US and its puppets a position of strength at the negotiating table and "to seek to achieve as many of our objectives as possible unilaterally if Hanoi is intransigent and the war goes on," as Kissinger made clear on December 31, 1968.

"Vietnamization" is for the US a "long-range and less costly" strategy to be effected in many stages: first, the US will break all large-scale attacks of the adversary which will enable it to withdraw part of its forces and gradually shift combat duty onto the puppet troops. Then comes the "pacification" stage in which the US will speedily carry out the construction program; and finally the US will force the adversary to give up fighting and apply a program of indefinite aid to the puppet army and administration in the form of military advisers and economic aid.

According to Thompson, Nixon's advisor, it will take the US from 3 to 5 years to cause the "melting" of the adversary, and from 10 to 15 years to secure definitive victory, by US estimates. It should be recalled that when Johnson waged his "limited war" in South Viet Nam, Pentagon strategists hoped it would be won in five years.

Nixon's new strategy differs from the "special war" strategy in that large numbers of American troops are directly taking part in the war, as a prop for "Vietnamization." So does "Vietnamization" under Nixon's strategy from Johnson's "limited war" strategy because puppet army is gradually becoming the main combat force, and consequently, "pacification" becomes the primary strategic measure. Though having discarded the "search-and-destroy" strategy, Nixon has tried his best to forestall People's Liberation Armed Forces actions by concentrating air raids on their bases, supply routes and logistic complexes along with launching ground operations to hamper their combat preparations.

NOW, after over one and a half years of "Vietnamization" effort, Nixon is still anxious about the fate of his plan and has sent to South Viet Nam one fact-finding team after another to inquire into its "accomplishments." Even in its most "optimistic" reports, the US could not help acknowledging the failures and difficulties it had met on a wide range of problems, including the most crucial ones.

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The wreckage of a US aircraft downed by Western Thua Thien guerillas' rifle fire.

Mounting Opposition in Saigon

US Troop Withdrawal and Replacement of Thieu-Ky-Khiem Clique Demanded

YANKEE GO HOME

THE recent devaluation of the piastre resulting in the lowering of the standard of living of the people as well as US rejection of the 8 points put forth by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh at the Paris Conference have exasperated popular anti-US feeling.

On October 11, in Saigon one thousand intellectuals, businessmen, students, delegates from various political, social and professional organizations held a meeting to found the "Popular Front for Peace." The latter eventually issued a proclamation stipulating that the "withdrawal of US and Allied troops is the *sine qua non* condition to re-establish peace." It also claimed respect for the South Vietnamese's right to self-determination and formation of a genuinely representative government.

Meanwhile, a white book has been published in Saigon by the "Committee for Our Fellow-Countrymen's Right to Live" to denounce US war crimes, illustrated with photos and statistics on US-puppet massacres of civilians in South Viet Nam.

On October 21, the "Movement for Women's Right to Live" denounced that 200 women detained at Chi Hoa prison had been taken to an unknown destination.

GENERAL DISCONTENT

IN face of this widespread opposition, the quislings have had no other alternative than to step up repression.

They are obstinately keeping in jail 7 students who are very ill from the tortures received. They are contemplating to summon Nguyen Van Thang, Ex-Secretary of the Students' General Association (SGA), before the Council of Discipline of the "Ministry" of Education on Oct 31. On Oct. 7 and 11, 3 students were kidnapped on their way home from school and from the SGA headquarters. The victims included a school girl and a student just released from police wards.

The puppet authorities have also been persecuting professors as a great number of them supports the students in their actions against the US and puppets. On Oct. 2, Prof. Bui Van Tro, of the Agricultural College, was the victim of assault and battery. On Oct. 9, policemen broke into the Faculty of Letters when members of a jury were busy correcting examination papers. Many of them were forced out of the room with bayonets and their session had to be suspended.

The crack-down on the press has grown harsher than ever. A number of papers have been seized. The *Tin Sang* (Morning Dispatch) was fined 250,000 piastres while two others – the *Doc lap* (Independence) and *Tin Som* (Morning News) – are facing prosecution.

The satisfaction of the claims of war invalids of

(*Continued page 8*)

The 3,363 rd US Plane Downed in the DRVN

ON October 28, an American drone violating the airspace of the DRVN was shot down over the Ha Tay province, SW of Hanoi, bringing the total of US aircraft downed by our AA defence since August 5, 1964, the first day of US escalation of war, to 3,363.

DRVN
News in Brief

AN agreement on economic and military aid granted for 1971 by the Soviet Union to the DRVN was signed at the Kremlin on October 22, 1970 between the economic delegations of both countries.

The DRVN delegation was led by Nguyen Con, Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Vice-Premier, and the Soviet delegation by N.A. Tikhonov, member of the CC of the CPSU and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

ON the occasion of the 50th founding anniversary of the Australian Communist Party, the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has sent warm congratulations to the CC of the Australian Party.

PREMIER Pham Van Dong sent on Oct. 26 a congratulating message to the 8th session of the WFDY held in Budapest on its 25th founding anniversary. In the name of the Vietnamese people, Premier Pham Van Dong thanked the youth in the world and the WFDY for their tireless support of the just and certainly victorious struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression.

A grand meeting was held in Hanoi on October 21 to back the campaign waged by the Japanese people against the US imperialists and the Sato administration.

AT the invitation of the Rumanian government, a DRVN government delegation led by Minister Dang Thi, Vice-President of the State Planning Committee, arrived in Rumania to visit the Bucharest fair.

ON October 10, a post and telegraph agreement was signed in Conakry between the DRVN and the Republic of Guinea.

A delegation of the Leninist Communist Youth Union led by HN Rogachin, Chairman of the Central Committee of the CC of the Union, arrived in Hanoi on October 20 at the invitation of the Ho Chi Minh Labour Youth Union.

CONSTRUCTION of 116 industrial and civilian buildings has begun thanks to adequate precautions taken against rain and typhoon. The volume of work done in the third quarter of 1970 increased by 408 per cent compared with the 2nd quarter where weather conditions were however more favourable.

THE Music and Theatre Institute has completed a selection of 7,000 pieces of popular and stage music. It has also collected about one hundred old musical instruments and sketched the history of Vietnamese Renovated Theatre, dramas and puppet shows. Research on the history of "Popular Opera" (*Cheo*) and "Classical Drama" (*Tuong*) is

(Continued page 3)

90th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Oct. 29, 1970)

Nixon's 5 Points Rejected by PRG

MR Nguyen Van Tien, deputy-leader of the PRG delegation, once again, said his government had totally and definitively turned down the 5 points put forth by Nixon on October 7 last.

Mr Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN government delegation, pointed that only the 10-point overall solution of May 8, 1969 and the 8-point peace initiative of Sept. 17, 1970 of the PRG could supply a political settlement of the Vietnamese issue consistent with the Vietnamese people's aspirations; they are the only judicious approach to the two fundamental aspects of the problem — political and military — which gives due consideration to the South Viet Nam realities.

"The Nixon administration is responsible for the prolongation and extension of the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, of the crimes against the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples, of the difficulties facing the US and of the deadlock of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam," Mr Xuan Thuy added.

Hanoi Press Opinion

A GREAT DAY OF STRUGGLE OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE

ON October 21, one million-odd Japanese took to the streets for demonstrations, meetings and strikes under the slogans "Stop the aggressive war against Viet Nam!", "Abolish the Japanese — US Security Treaty!", "Return Okinawa to Japan!"

For the last five consecutive years, the 21st of October has been observed as a historic day to show the strength of united actions of the Japanese people in their struggle for independence, freedom, neutrality and peace. Such strength is in itself a stern warning to the Sato administration which is harbouring wildly dangerous ambitions of aggression and expansionism.

In Japan now is unfolding a fierce battle between the democratic and progressive forces and the reactionary administration of monopoly capital, a battle of a decisive character for the destiny of that country in the last decades of the 20th century. The Sato reactionary administration seems to be gloating over the present temporary boom in Japan. It is speeding up the revival of militarism, tacitly but hectically building a big aggressive army equipped with modern weapons. It is engaged in expansionist activities in all parts of the world, grappling for markets and influence with Western imperialist powers.

Okinawans demonstrating in front of a US air base for withdrawal of GIs and B.52s.

Though divergences between Japan and the US are growing ever sharper, Japan is merely playing second fiddle to the US. The Japanese reactionary administration is strengthening its collusion with the US and endeavouring to serve the latter's aggressive and warlike policy in the world. For more than a decade now, it has been lending a helpful hand to the US imperialists in their aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina, and has converted Japan into a major logistical and operational base for the US in this unjust war. Japanese monopoly capital has netted scores of billion dollars at the cost of the blood of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Through the united actions of tens of millions of people in repeated drives and in diversified forms, the Japanese have voiced their deep sympathy and militant solidarity with the Vietnamese. The Japanese communists have always regarded Viet Nam as the focal point of the conflict of an international character between the imperialist forces and the anti-imperialist forces, regarding the struggle for the withdrawal of all US troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam and the achievement of the independence, sovereignty and reunification of Viet Nam as a common historic task of all the anti-imperialist forces in the world.

The Japanese democratic and progressive people consider the Indochinese peoples' resistance against US aggression for national salvation, as a great inspiration for all the friends of peace, democracy and social progress and those who are seeking the path of national salvation. They regard the struggle against the US aggressive war in Indochina as an integral part of the movement for a peaceful, independent and neutral Japan.

With deep appreciation of the valuable and wholehearted support of the Japanese people, we wish to extend to the Communist Party, democratic organizations and the entire people of Japan, our sincere thanks. We resolutely support the just struggle of the Japanese people against the US imperialists and the Sato reactionary administration and urge that the "Japan — US Security Treaty" be abolished and that the US completely and unconditionally return Okinawa to Japan for the sake latter's peace, independence, democracy, neutrality and prosperity.

Nhan Dan (The People)
Oct. 24, 1970

A Reeling Blow to US Imperialism in Chile

DR Salvador Allende's election showed the great strength of the "popular unity" coalition which had courageously tided over numerous obstacles raised by the US imperialists and their stooges to take the Chilean revolution ever forward. The splendid success of the popular, democratic and progressive forces in Chile also proved the constant advance of the Latin American people's movement against the US imperialists and the pro-US reactionary forces. Over the past 10 years, strongly encouraged by the Cuban revolution, the people in Latin America have been stepping up their struggle for independence, democracy and social progress. The armed fight of the people in many countries has not ceased to strengthen and develop. In many other countries, the people have launched a multifarious and highly successful drive against the US oligarchy and the dictatorial rulers. Dr Salvador Allende's election as president dealt a reeling blow to the imperialists and the reactionaries in Chile. However, the latter have not yet reconciled themselves to failure, but are working with still greater zeal against the Chilean revolution. Rejoicing over their new victory, the Chilean people remain highly vigilant over their enemies' scheme and are ready to foil every hostile act of the US imperialists and their lackeys.

The Vietnamese people warmly hail the important victory of the Chilean people. They firmly believe that the Chilean people's struggle for independence, democracy and social progress will score still greater achievements.

Nhan Dan (The People)
Oct. 26, 1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

TWO NEW DECREES ON PROTECTION OF SOCIALIST AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

PRESIDENT Ton Duc Thang promulgated on October 23 last two decrees ratified two days earlier by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly concerning the protection of socialist and private property in North Viet Nam.

The first one on sanctions against offences against socialist property aims at protecting socialist property in order to contribute to the reinforcement of the national economic potential and defence, the safeguard of the national cultural patrimony, the raising of the people's living standard and at securing complete victory for the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. It is also meant to enhance the sense of collective mastership of the cadres, workers, civil servants, armymen and the rest of the people, exalting socialist virtues and respect and protection of socialist property and mobilizing all the citizens against offences against such property.

In its general provisions it defines as socialist property, property belonging to the State, co-operatives and other legal organizations run by the population. It stipulates that this property is sacred and absolutely inviolable and that all citizens are duty bound to respect and protect it.

The second ordinance deals with the punishment of offences against private property legally owned or accumulated by the citizens, including money, foods, clothing, dwellings, animals, means of transport and communication, jewellery, cultural articles and other personal belongings. Its purpose is to protect the private property of the citizens, maintain law and order, provide the citizens with favourable conditions to take part in socialist construction and in the struggle against US aggression for national salvation. It also aims at raising socialist ethics.

The two decrees provide penalties ranging from three months' prison term to life imprisonment and capital punishment; however for the same offences against socialist property, the punishment are generally speaking, definitely heavier.

The principle governing the punishment of offences mentioned in both ordinances is: to severely punish professional malefactors, recidivists, those operating in gangs, ringleaders, culprits who have misused their function or authority and those who have caused heavy damage to the State, to the community or to the victim; to mitigate the punishment or show leniency to those who have made confessions or paid damages for the losses they have caused or those who have sincerely repented their fault or turned state's evidence. A stipulation is especially reserved for repression of attempts or schemes to disguise, shield or conceal misdeeds; it is chiefly directed against those who abuse their positions or authority to retaliate on citizens for denunciation of their unlawful acts.

Thus, with the progress made by socialist construction, the law and regulation system is perfected so as to accelerate this construction and improve the people's living conditions.

DONG LAM PEASANTS

THE commune of DongLam, consisting of two villages, Nho Lam and Thanh Giam, lies in the eastern part of Thai Binh province. There, in 1930, the Tien Hai (name of the district) peasant movement broke out.

Visiting the locality, you will probably meet old To Trang who will give you details of the 1930 demonstration. It was he who, on these days, beat a big drum calling the inhabitants for a muster. He will show you the wall of the Nho Lam communal house from which Phan Ai, one of the peasant leaders, exhorted the crowd to action and the road through which the peasants went in serried ranks, behind the hammer-and-sickle flag, to the district town to ask for tax reduction and allotment of communal land and to protest against the repression of the Nghe Tinh Soviet movement.

He will tell you how the action was drowned in blood — eight deads, many wounded and arrested — by the feudal-colonial administration, and how the peasant leaders, the first communists in the locality, behaved. Luong Van Sang had his belly ripped open; with his hand he tore out his bowels and hurled part of them into the face of the enemy, shouting: "I'm going to die but the revolution will go on and triumph." Phan Ai was hung to a tree, and put to the rack most savagely. To all questions put to him he only replied: "I made the red flag, wrote the slogans and roused the masses. I did everything myself."

You will be told that in Nho Lam village, all the three hundred *mau* (or one hundred hectares) of communal ricefields, the most fertile of all, were in the hands of local tyrants, and, for lack of land, the peasants had to become tenants or hire themselves as farm hands; that the salt-makers of the village (Nho Lam is on the seashore) were compelled to sell to the customs of the then colonial administration all their salt production at a dirt cheap price of thirty *sous* per quintal, to buy back the same salt later on at a price of thirty *sous* per ten kilograms; that at the same village, the peasants were forced to do corvées for one *sou* or even half a *sou* per day whereas he had to pay a poll-tax of 2.5 piastres, i.e. two hundred fifty *sous*; that the terrible famine of winter 1944-1945 carried off a lot of these poor people...

It is the knowledge of this gruesome past which brings home to you the significance of the changes wrought at Dong Lam. The commune has become now a big co-operative. The formerly checkered ricefields have disappeared to make room for larger ones crisscrossed with irrigation ditches and tilled by mechanical ploughs. Here and there diesel pumps bring water into the fields. At the seaside, behind uniform plots of salt-marsh, a thick screen of *casuarina* trees protect crops from wind and sand.

The average paddy yield of the co-operative is now over 5 tons per hectare per year, whereas formerly half of that quantity was to attain with great difficulty. But what is more important is that, not like in the past, the peasants enjoy now all the fruits of their labour.

YOU just have to visit one of the then most destitute families, that of Old Nam for instance, to realize the first blessings of the revolution. His house is of course still far from comfortable, but he has now beds, mosquito-nets, a set of the public system address to tune in the *Voice of Viet Nam*, a tiled yard and a curbed well. When you know that the owner of the house did not "have formerly a patch of ground to drive a bradawl into," as runs a saying, you will understand how happy he is at present!

There are at Dong Lam many families with the same lot. Harshly oppressed and exploited in the past, they have harboured from generation to generation an implacable hatred for the enemy of the class; and it is not rare that three generations have borne arms against the aggressor. The family of Old Bui Sinh is a case in point. That septuagenarian was one of the leaders of the 1930 local peasant movement. After his spell in jail, he resumed his revolutionary activities. Arrested anew and deported to Son La and then to Poulo Condor, he was liberated by the August Revolution in 1945 only. He then joined up and fought in Nam Bo. In his village, his four sons also served with the colours: one of them died on the field of honour, two others were war invalids and the fourth one is still on active service. During the US war of destruction against North Viet Nam, one of his grand sons also joined the army.

Bui Sinh has retired for many years, but never wants to remain idle. He took part in A.A. defence by either encouraging the militiamen in action or replacing them in some farming work. It is in this way that he and others old folk have contributed to the success of Dong Lam peasants over these last few years in the fighting and production: five planes downed in total and five tons of paddy per hectare per year.

JUST like in other communes in North Viet Nam, Dong Lam is experiencing its real springtide. But the struggle is still on, for the aggressor is still in the South and is constantly threatening the North, and socialist construction is requiring many more efforts...

News in Brief

(Continued from page 2)

THE *5th exhibition of works by South Vietnamese artists* has been inaugurated in Hanoi, with 350 entries by 58 artists. Their works were previously on display in various localities of South Viet Nam's free zones before coming to the North. The development of arts in South Viet Nam is marked by the versatility of the themes which reflect the heroic struggle of our people there against US aggression and by the high standard of their creations.

THE *"Engineers' Art Exhibition"* has been opened in Hanoi with 78 pictures (oil-paintings, gouaches, water-colours...), one project of sculptural group and 18 statues by 23 officers and soldiers of the engineering corps.

THE works by painters Van Giao, Pham Viet Song, Le Thanh Duc, Ngoc Linh, Luu Cong Nhan were on display in Hanoi from July to October 1970.

AMERICAN WORKERS' ANTI-WAR PROTEST SPREADS

THE *Electronic Radio Industry Workers Amalgamated Union* has protested against the Viet Nam war of aggression of the Nixon administration and emphasized the serious war aftermaths for the USA. This is another voice added to those of millions of American workers urging an end to the war on account of the burden of war weighing on their shoulders. Here are some relevant data:

— Industrial production from July 1969 to the end of May 1970 dropped by 3.2 per cent.

— Unemployment rate from May 1969 to the end of May 1970 increased by 1.3 million, i. e. 46 per cent.

— Consumer goods prices soared by 6.2 per cent during the past twelve months (1).

Federative revenues rose from 45 per cent (in World War II) to 68 per cent (in 1970), not including the increase of extra taxes and social insurance taxes levied on workers' wages (2).

Housing construction was reduced by over 20 per cent.

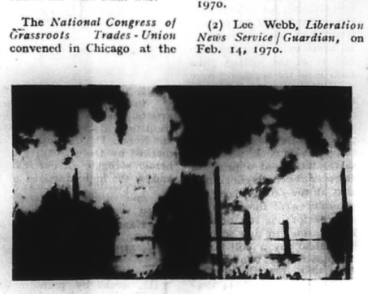
Real wages of a factory worker fell by 5 per cent since the end of 1968, etc.

After Nixon's expanding the war to the whole of Indochina, the anti-war drive among American workers has been mounting. 2,500 factory and office workers in New York approved on May 4 a resolution hostile to the Nixon authorities' Viet Nam policy and killing of the 4 Kent University students. The Conference of the *American Federation of States, County and Municipal Employees* passed a resolution urging the US government to immediately and totally withdraw American troops from Southeast Asia and protesting against Nixon's bringing the war to Cambodia. Wiley, a leader of the *National Organization for the Defence of the Black People's Rights and Welfare* (with a 75,000 - membership) declared that the Black Americans of this organization would stage a demonstration for the US government's ending of the Indochinese war to save money for the improvement of the poor Americans' living conditions. The May 21 demonstration in New York with such slogans as "Trade-Unionists and students urge the end of the war," "US out of Southeast Asia," "Spend billions of dollars at home, not for the Viet Nam war," gathered some 20,000 people, mostly workers and employees of many trades, hospitals and administrative offices, electricians, tailors, drivers, TU and students' representatives. On the same day, 451 TU leaders of California, Nixon's native state, sent him a protest against his spreading the war to Cambodia and demanded that he end the war right away and bring home all American boys. The Conference of the *US Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union* (with a 417,000-membership) held in Atlantic City on May 25, 1970 scored US aggression policy on Indochina and pressed for cuts in the Nixon administration's war expenditure. G. Potofski, its Chairman and member of the Central Committee of the AFL—CIO, declared before the Conference that its trade-unionists as well as all the labouring people and almost every American longed for peace and that they all were for an immediate peace, opposed Nixon's continued military adventure in Indochina and condemned new murders of American war protesters. Leonard Wookcock, Chairman of the *Automobile and Aircraft Industry Workers Amalgamated Union*, warned Nixon that he would not be able to settle the internal affairs of the USA unless he at once ended the Viet Nam war.

The *National Congress of Grassroots Trades-Union* convened in Chicago at the end of June 1970 with the participation of 900 representatives of Trades-Union of 26 states, mostly young industrial workers and Black labourers and veterans in the American workers' movement, unanimously adopted a resolution for peace and democratization of Trades-Union and against the Viet Nam war of aggression and racial discrimination in the USA. The delegates strongly censured G. Meany, chief of the AFL-CIO, and his followers for their endorsement of Nixon's aggressive and racial policies.

The gathering of over 3,000 representatives of anti-war workers held in last August in Cleveland by the American Communist Party, as well as the Party's previous statements, have bared Nixon's attempts to bribe and deceive workers and thrown light upon the truth, enhanced American workers' and labouring people's consciousness and stiffened their resolve to fight against the Viet Nam war and the Nixon administration's bellicose, reactionary policies.

Together with these developments, the establishment of the *Trades-Union National Committee to End the War in Indochina* marked an advance in the American working class's and TU organizations' struggle against the aggression against Viet Nam and for vital and democratic rights.



The Cadet School set on fire by Washington University students (Missouri - May 4, 1970).

(1) Victor Perlo, *The USA Economy and Crisis*, in *Pravda* of Sept. 9 and 10, 1970.

(2) Lee Webb, *Liberation News Service/Guardian*, on Feb. 14, 1970.

Nixon's "New Peace Initiative" Viewed by American Mass Organizations

"AN increased volume of platitudes about peace" and "an attempt to hustle votes for Republican candidates in the Congressional election on November 3," those are comments of American peace organizations on Nixon's Oct. 7 "peace initiative."

A national campaign for peace was rapidly launched and within only eight days after Nixon delivered his speech, a big demonstration took place in New York (Oct. 15). The demonstrators distributed leaflets in which they pointed out that Nixon's proposals were not only a far cry from an effort toward the cessation of the war, but one toward a prolongation of the war with American troops' continued presence in Viet Nam. They held a meeting in front of New York city hall, passed a draft resolution condemning the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and urged exemption from taxes to cover military expenditure for public servants and employees of the New York administration. 100,000 people including half of the New York city councillors signed it.

The *Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam* made public a strong statement against Nixon's Oct. 7 address. "The President expressed his concern for the will of the South Vietnamese people... The people of South Viet Nam want the US out of their country. The GIs themselves do not want to be there, and the overwhelming majority of the American people also want to see them brought home now," the statement said. This Committee also demanded that Nixon set free thousands of American young men still in jail "whose only crime is refusal to take part in the genocidal war in Indochina," and declared, "We are tired of speeches and empty promises and grandiose-sounding plans for peace. We demand that Nixon and his government stop the double talk and do the only thing that will really end the war—bring all the GIs home now!"

Americans against the war: demonstrators clashing with M.P. at Fort Dix, New Jersey (May 17, 1970).

The peace activists have planned demonstrations in over thirty cities, including Washington, for October 31, for an immediate end to Nixon's war. On October 20, the annual convention of New York bishops (leading body of the Protestant Episcopal Church) passed a resolution urging the Nixon administration to pull out all its troops from Viet Nam before December 1971. The *US National Peace Action Coalition* embracing such peace organizations as the *Committee for Anti-War Demonstrations*, the *Women Strike for Peace*, the *Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam*, etc., called on the world peoples to co-ordinate their actions with the Americans on the coming October 31 to turn it into an "International Peace Action Day" for the withdrawal of all American troops from the Indochinese countries and respect for the Indochinese peoples' right to self-determination.

In its Oct. 18 issue, *The New York Times* ran a letter to Nixon from E. Condon and S. Milman, Co Chairmen of the *American Citizens for a Sane Nuclear Policy*, O. Hubbard, a member of the Leading Committee of the *Viet Nam Veterans against the War*, and many others, protesting against the US war of aggression on Viet Nam and demanding that Nixon remove the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta and appealing to the American people to stop Nixon's sending American youth to Viet Nam to fight and die for the Saigon ruling circle.

NIXON: The Man and His Policy

IV – NIXON'S ASIAN DOCTRINE

NGUYEN HOANG

PRESIDENT Nixon recommends that US diplomacy should keep a "low profile" in its relations with Europe as well as with Asia.

Apparent humility does not mean absence; when applied to Washington's Asian policy, such a course of action seems to be the fruit of a long calculation based on rather bitter past experience.

FROM PLETHORIC PRESENCE TO "AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL"

THERE was a time when, applying the "containment" theory, the US set up all around the socialist countries a "sanitary cordon" made up of military blocs. Two of these blocs are in Asia: the CENTO and SEATO, whose Western origin is conspicuous to Asians. US military bases were built in Japan and the Middle East with US garrisons totalling over 300,000 men (not including half a million operating in Viet Nam): 63,000 in South Korea, 40,000 in Japan, 45,000 in Okinawa, 10,000 in Taiwan, 30,000 in the Philippines, 50,000 in Thailand, thousands in Guam, and 60,000 on board the 7th Fleet. This military presence completed by quite a plethoric presence of economic, technical and cultural aid missions, did not however prevent widespread anti-US sentiments in the Asian continent. For years there has been no end of demonstrations against Uncle Sam in Calcutta or Manila, Seoul or Phnom Penh, Hue or Rawalpindi. *USIS* offices are ransacked, American prominent visitors booed, the Stars and Stripes burnt, in short the opposition of Asians to US imperialism has been quite apparent. What has given food for thought to the strategists on the bank of the Potomac, has been the setbacks suffered by the armies officered and led by Americans as in China and Laos, and even these of GIs as in Korea and now in Viet Nam.

A reappraisal of some aspects of US Asian policy began thus late in the sixties, chiefly with Johnson's July 12, 1966 Sulphur Spring speech where encouragement was given to so-called Asian initiatives in the establishment of such so-called economic and cultural regional groupments as ASPAC, ASEAN, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong Valley Development Programme, etc.

The part played by Nixon in this "agonizing reappraisal" is that he has pushed it through and formulated in more concrete terms Washington's new Asian policy, especially in the military field. This was first outlined by the present American president before his election in his article "Asia after Viet Nam" appearing in the October 1967 issue of *Foreign Affairs*. During his Asian tour in the summer of 1969 after his advent to power, Nixon officially put forth his Asian doctrine at Guam on July 25 and elaborated on it in his February 18, 1970 report on foreign policy.

CAUTION AND OBSTINACY

PART and parcel of a new "global strategy," this Asian policy involves first recognition of a range of priorities in which US vital interests in Europe takes precedence of all others. As the possibilities of the US are after all limited, it was wiser for it to end the scattering of its forces on all continents and to renounce L.B. Johnson's concepts which laid special stress on Asia in the implementation of his foreign policy. Besides, Asia and chiefly the Far East proved to be a hotbed of revolution, and the war in Korea and chiefly in Viet Nam has given Nixon the useful lesson on less expensive means than sending American boys to fight in Asian countries.

All this does not mean that the US will withdraw from Asia.

"We remain involved in Asia," said Nixon, because "we are a Pacific power."

Besides, "during the final third of the twentieth century," Nixon went on, "Asia, not Europe or Latin America, will pose the greatest danger of a confrontation which could escalate into World War III" (*Foreign Affairs*, October 1967). As a corollary to these observations:

— "The US will keep its treaty commitments."

— "We shall provide a shield if a nuclear power threatens the freedom of a nation allied with us, or of a nation whose survival we consider vital to our security and the security of the region as a whole."

— "In cases involving other types of aggression we shall furnish military and economic assistance when requested and as appropriate. But we shall look to the nation directly threatened to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defence" (Report of Feb. 18, 1970).

In his article "Asia after Viet Nam" Nixon explained the process of an eventual intervention of the US:

— The countries victims of overt aggression or covert aggression (that is internal uprisings) must be the first to make a collective effort to resist such aggression.

— The US will intervene only when this collective effort fails and when a request is presented collectively by these countries.

In the same article Nixon gave with much candour the reason of such cautiousness: the US is rather exhausted by the Viet Nam war, and not only militarily and economically, but also socially and politically, and a US intervention like that in Viet Nam would be hardly tolerated by public opinion in the US and in the world.

To increase military and economic aids to Asian regimes owing allegiance to the US and restrict to the minimum the commitment of GIs overseas, a maximum military effort being required from satellite countries; to "avoid new Viet Nams" while securing means of keeping, strengthening and even expanding imperialist positions, using less US troops than Asians to fight Asians — such is Nixon's line.

(To be continued)

News from CAMBODIA

US-LON NOL SCHEME TO PARTITION CAMBODIA

THE Political Bureau of the CC of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia issued on October 22, 1970 a joint statement denouncing the US imperialists' scheme to partition Cambodia.

"Trying desperately to stave off their inevitable defeat and to achieve their dark design to enslave Cambodia," the statement said, "the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys in Phnom Penh have once more set forth, within the framework of the so-called peace initiative of President Nixon, compromise solutions aimed at the partition of Cambodia."

The Political Bureau of the CC of the FUNK and the CRGNU denounced and condemned most vigorously this criminal scheme. They formally reaffirmed that Cambodia is one and indivisible and that the unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia have been recognized and guaranteed by the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

They exposed "all manoeuvres and attempts of any organization or individual whatsoever to set forth plans or convene an international conference on Cambodia the objective of which, whether it is avowed or not, would be to legitimize or camouflage the aggression of the US imperialists and their lackeys in Saigon and Bangkok and other US satellites against Cambodia, to legitimize or legalize the administration of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak - Son Ngoc Thanh traitors and to bring about the partition of Cambodia."

The statement stressed that the Political Bureau of the CC of the FUNK and the CRGNU would not accept any compromise solution with the US imperialists and their lackeys, the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak - Son Ngoc Thanh clique, and continued urging:

— The unconditional, total and immediate cessation of bombings and shellings of Cambodian territory by the aircraft of the US and their lackeys.

— The total, unconditional and immediate pull-out from Cambodia's territory of American advisers and the armed forces of the US henchmen in Saigon and Bangkok.

— A total end to war provocations and intervention in Cambodia on the part of the US Government and its henchmen.

News from LAOS

VIENTIANE TRIES TO JUSTIFY US AGGRESSION

IN a White Book made public on October 20, 1970 Prince Souvanna Phouma and the Vientiane administration again heaped slanders on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, alleging that "North Viet Nam was committing aggression against Laos."

The DRVN Foreign Ministry issued on this score on Oct. 25 a statement which read *inter alia*:

"The aim of the move of Prince Souvanna Phouma and the Vientiane administration against the DRVN is to legalize the atrocious US 'special war' in Laos. It, however, cannot fool the public which has been strongly critical of the Nixon administration's stepped-up air raids on the territory of Laos, savage killing of the Lao people especially with B.52's, assignment of over ten thousand US military personnel to the direct command of the Lao rightist army and the many units of Thailand mercenaries and Saigon puppet troops in encroaching attacks on areas under the control of the Lao patriotic forces. The so-called 'new peace initiative' taken by President Nixon on October 7, indeed, cannot cover the fact that he is intensifying the war of aggression against the Indochinese countries.

"The Foreign Ministry of the DRVN completely rejects all despicable slanders levelled by the Vientiane administration at the DRVN. It again makes it clear that it is a DRVN unchanging policy to always observe and strictly implement the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos.

"The DRVN Government insists that the US stop its intervention and aggression in Laos. First of all the US must stop completely and unconditionally the bombing and strafing of the territory of Laos to make it possible for the Lao parties concerned to meet and settle the internal affairs of Laos as proposed by the Lao Patriotic Front."

First Vietnamese Film Festival

ORGANIZED on the 25th founding anniversary of the DRVN, the First Vietnamese Film Festival has reviewed our cinematographic production during the four years of resistance to US "escalation," in the midst of which, from 1965 to 1968, our studios produced 259 newsreels: 184 documentaries, 16 feature films, 12 animated cartoons, 83 films of scientific and technical vulgarization. With a true Vietnamese stamp and commendable artistic advances, these works have helped galvanize the masses for a gigantic struggle against the most powerful and most brutal aggression of our times.

Though their films did not participate, the South Viet Nam Liberation Studio and Liberation Army Studio were also awarded many medals. The "Gold Lotus" (symbolic flower of Viet Nam and also name of President Ho Chi Minh's native village – Kim Lien) were granted to 9 documentaries and a special newsreel, the "Silver Lotus" to 9 documentaries and 2 newsreels, and certificates of merit were given to 10 documentaries.

North Vietnamese films received 16 "Gold Lotus" (8 documentaries, 2 special newsreels, 3 feature films: Nguyen Van Troi, Nguoi chien si tre – *Young Fighter* –, and Noi gio – *The Storm Is Rising* –, 2 animated cartoons: Meo con – *The Kitten* –, and Con sao biet noi – *The Talking Blackbird* –, and one film of scientific popularization). 3o "Silver Lotus" and 21 certificates.

A still from the film Noi gio *(The Storm Is Rising).*

Discovery of Old Bilingual Glossary

THE manuscript of a Chinese-Vietnamese glossary — believed to be one of the oldest of its kind — compiled by a Vietnamese woman three centuries ago was discovered in North Viet Nam recently.

The book deals with some thirty subjects, such as astronomy, geography, fauna and flora, agriculture, literature, music, marriage and funeral rites, etc.

There are keys to the pronunciation of the Chinese entries which are defined in "Chu Nom" (ancient Vietnamese dematic script which made use of the various elements of the ideographic Chinese characters).

The glossary is compiled in alternated six-foot and eight-foot verse which is one of the most popular meters of Vietnamese poetry — to help the readers memorize both the words and their meanings.

Noteworthy is the fact that the author was a woman scholar known by the Buddhist name of Phap Tinh. A reference to Vietnamese history in the 17th century shows Phap Tinh, or Trinh Thi Ngoc Truc, was the first wife of King Le Than Tong, who reigned from 1619 to 1643.

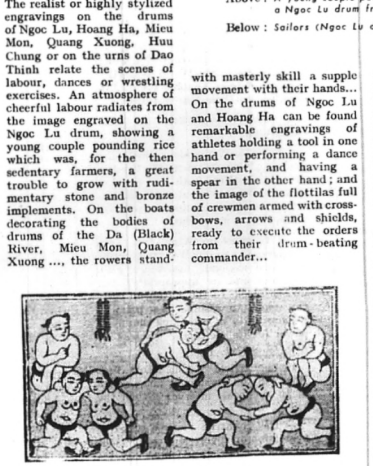
The Vietnamese Man through Ancient Plastic Arts

"... Everywhere people carry loads of earth, dig trenches..." Swedish writer Sara Lidman commented during her visit to North Viet Nam in 1965, at the beginning of the US air escalation. "The Vietnamese do everything with gracious and harmonious gestures, and always seem to perform a dance. After observing some ancient art works, I got an idea of the first source of this beauty life is full of..."

The following is an illustration of this remark, which gives the features of the Vietnamese man through the ancient plastic arts. — Ed.

I. THE VIETNAMESE BRONZE AGE (SECOND AND FIRST MILLENARIES B.C.)

4,000 years ago, the Kings Hung founded the Van Lang Kingdom, first appellation of Viet Nam. At that time, bronze already made its appearance. When King Thuc An Duong set up the Au Lac Kingdom (258 B.C.) after defeating the 18th King Hung, this bronze civilization reached a high standard, which Western archeologists named *Dong Son civilization* (Thanh Hoa province). If in the neolithic era the Vietnamese man seldom was pictured on the friezes decorating the ceramic articles, he was frequently found in the bronze age, especially on drums and urns. The images carved on the bronze drums and urns found in Viet Nam were very rich and expressive, which were for this ranked by almost all archeologists; the first of those discovered in the same period in the other Southeast-Asian countries. The realist or highly stylized engravings on the drums of Ngoc Lu, Hoang Ha, Mieu Mon, Quang Xuong, Huu Chung or on the urns of Dao Thinh relate the scenes of labour, dances or wrestling exercises. An atmosphere of cheerful labour radiates from the image engraved on the Ngoc Lu drum, showing a young couple pounding rice which was, for the then sedentary farmers, a great trouble to grow with rudimentary stone and bronze implements. On the boats decorating the bodies of drums of the Da (Black) River, Mieu Mon, Quang Xuong ..., the rowers standing or sitting, display a great ease in their navigating skill. The picture of the dancers' groups found on almost all the bronze drums, particularly on the Ngoc Lu drum, shows a great joy of living. There were flutists and cymbalists dancing to the rhythm of music, dancers performing with masterly skill a supple movement with their hands... On the drums of Ngoc Lu and Hoang Ha can be found remarkable engravings of athletes holding a tool in one hand or performing a dance movement, and having a spear in the other hand; and the image of the flottilas full of crewmen armed with crossbows, arrows and shields, ready to execute the orders from their drum-beating commander...



Wrestling (popular engraving).

II. PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE (10th TO 15th CENTURY)

AT the end of the first millenary B.C., Viet Nam was under the domination of the feudalists from the North. For ten centuries, unlike the other communities, Viet Nam (then named *Giao Chi*) victoriously struggled against the aggressors' policy of assimilation. Therefore, after wresting back national independence, the Vietnamese man again appeared with his specific features in the plastic arts.

Above: *A young couple pounding paddy (decoration on a Ngoc Lu drum from the Bronze Age).*

Below: *Sailors (Ngoc Lu drum).*

According to the annals, under the Ly dynasty (11th to 13th century) "four great art works of Annam" (*Annam Tu Dai Khi*) were erected: the Quynh Lam pagoda with its thousand statues of Buddha among them the 24-metre high statue of Maitreya; the Bao Thien tower scores of metres high; the Quy Dien bell too heavy to be hung up; and the Pho Minh cauldron of so big proportions that people could take a walk on its lid.... It is regrettable that these art works were destroyed during the social upheavals and invasions.

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Initial Failure of Nixon's War

(Continued from page 1)

Nixon has stated that "the most meaningful criteria for South Vietnamese government success in the countryside are the establishment in each hamlet of an adequate defense and a fully functioning government resident in the hamlet 24 hours a day."

Here are the hard facts:

— In February 1970, the report of a fact-finding team headed by Lowenstein pointed out that most of the "Viet Cong" basic structures remained intact, that the "enemy" still had means and ways to frustrate the "Vietnamization" program whenever he chose to, and that the villages rated one hundred per cent "secure" continued to be infiltrated and hundreds of "pacification" agents had been killed.

— In May 1970, a report of another fact-finding team headed by Edmund Gullion and Cabod Lodge said that the "opponents" had not abandoned the important areas and their infrastructure had not been weeded out.

The US puppets' "accelerated pacification" plan has been brought to a standstill in the central part of Central Viet Nam and in a number of South Viet Nam delta provinces. The US-puppets have been able neither to destroy the revolutionary bases in the countryside nor to win the people's "hearts and minds" in the areas under their control. The urban people's movement has been mounting irresistibly. The guerilla war in many rural areas and on the fringes of the towns has been gaining momentum. More than half of the "strategic hamlets" has been destroyed. Tens of thousands of cruel agents have been liquidated. To save the situation, the "special pacification" program has been hurriedly worked out and put into effect.

Nixon stated that to reinforce the capability of the Saigon puppet administration, it is necessary to strengthen its armed forces in numbers, equipment, leadership and combat skills. The puppet army, at least on paper, counts nearly a million men including armed police, "pacification" agents and militia. The US has furnished the puppet army with new modern equipment. But despite the numerical increase of the puppet army and its re-equipment, the balance of forces on the battlefield remains unfavourable to the US, because the number of US troops is dropping and so is the combat efficiency of the puppet army. The more puppet troops are sent to the front, the higher their casualty toll. Since the beginning of this year, the casualty rate of the puppet army has grown fourfold compared with that of US troops. According to US analysis, of the 6 factors that account for the fighting power of the puppet army, 4 depend on the US, namely matériel, planning, operational and advisory support. The two remaining factors — leadership and fighting spirit — are very weak, and compounded by a very high rate of desertion. In a report on the latter in Bien Hoa, puppet army General Do Cao Tri once disclosed that seventy-five out of every hundred soldiers went over the hill and of the remaining twenty-five only ten could fight.

The US and its puppets have made a considerable effort to consolidate their defensive system while launching pre-emptive operations against the PLAF. But the invasion of Cambodia intended by Nixon to "save Vietnamization" has worsened the strategic and political situation of the US. This reckless move has triggered off the resistance of the Khmer people and the emergence of a new front, a vast resistance base and a bastion against the US and its puppets. The US has failed in its goal of "repulsing the Viet Cong offensive." Instead, the number of attacks by the patriotic forces in September 1970 was the highest within the last four months, according to *USIS*. Both US and puppet troops have been badly mauled and forced to flee from Hill 935, Da Ban and Coc Bai (Quang Tri — Thua Thien — Hue).

THE "Vietnamization of the war" policy of the US has met with initial but heavy setbacks. The factors of defeat are aggravating and the precarious character of the whole undertaking is becoming more and more apparent.

More than a year after the new strategy was adopted, the US aggressors have not yet found any sound answer to a series of fundamental questions raised by Nixon himself and the US ruling circles: Can the puppet army stand on its own feet once 300,000 US troops have been withdrawn? And then, what will be the US reaction if the adversary press harder? Can the US stop "suckling" the Saigon puppet administration? In the past, after five or more years of the Ngo Dinh Diem regime, the US was hopeful it could last for decades. But the Ngo Dinh Diem regime was overthrown in its 9th year by the concerted actions of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people. And now, the question is how long the Thieu regime can subsist. Can "Vietnamization" be carried out according to Nixon's timetable? What will Nixon do to fulfil his promises as his term of office is running out?

In setting forth the "Vietnamization" strategy, Nixon hoped time would work for him. But the fact is that Nixon is pressed by time as his tenure is going on for its second half. Meanwhile the Vietnamese people's national salvation cause is bound by no deadline, still less by the term of office of a US President. Fighting the aggressors right on their soil, the Vietnamese people are determined to carry on their effort till they have regained independence and freedom, no matter how long it may be.

Nixon also hopes that with its huge economic and military potentials, with its superiority in material resources, the US can turn the tables and gain a position of strength from which to compel the Vietnamese people to accept its terms. But as has been clearly demonstrated by realities, US strength has its limits and never can the US win a position of strength in Viet Nam. Obstinate as he is, Nixon has been forced to withdraw part of the US troops from South Viet Nam, thereby tilting the balance of forces on the battlefield to the detriment of the aggressors.

No matter how reckless he may be, Nixon is not in a position to field such a military force as Johnson did when Johnson started the "limited war" in South Viet Nam and the war of destruction in North Viet Nam. As for the Vietnamese people's resistance war, whatever hardships may lie ahead, it is benefiting from more favourable conditions now than any time before.

Undoubtedly, time is not on the US aggressors' side. Nixon's war has met with initial and serious setbacks. It is certain that Nixon will suffer even heavier setbacks than Johnson, his predecessor.

The Ly period leaves behind engravings on stone and wood, in the Phat Tich pagoda (Ha Bac), Chuong Son (Nam Ha), Long Doi Son (Nam Ha), Hoa Long (Thanh Hoa), Thai Lan (Hai Duong), Hang Chua (Yen Bai)... or on ceramic vases and plates. The *garuda* of the Phat Tich and Long Doi Son pagodas seem to be howering over the Celestial Palace. The musicians found on a column of Phat Tich pagoda with their traditional instruments are playing a symphony. In the Chuong Son, Long Doi Son, Hoa Long, Hang Chua and other pagodas, young girls with gracious lines, perform with fervour and suppleness the "flower presenting." Though not reflecting all aspects of society, this religious art shows us that man at that time loved life, dance and music, but was nevertheless not less vigilant in defending his country: under the ivory enamel of a great urn are found two strong young warriers with tattooed bodies engaged in a wrestling drill. The history of the Vietnamese people, under the Ly and Tran dynastics (10th to 11th century), has also recorded the resounding victories of Ly Thuong Kiet and Tran Quoc Tuan over the aggressors from the North.

III — FROM 16th TO 19th CENTURY

AN architectural work of a specific kind has been left behind in almost all Vietnamese villages since the 16th century, that is the *dinh* or the communal house where the notables and other people gathered to debate the affairs of the village. It is also the site for traditional ceremonies and public festivities. The engraved or drawn pictures in the *dinh* faithfully mirror various aspects of the Vietnamese peasants' life, of their dreams and hopes. An engraving in the *dinh* of Tho Tang (Vinh Phu), Chu Quyen (Ha Tay), Hoanh Son (Nghe An), etc., portrays a farmer and his buffalo ploughing the ricefield while beside him another peasant is resting, lying on the grass, his conical hat on his chest; another depicts young women peasants carrying young riceplants or replanting seedlings, etc. The popular prints on *zo* paper with these themes *Agriculture is the foundation* or *Scenes of farming life* have been produced by handicraftsmen of Dong Ho village (Ha Bac). Scenes of hunting engraved on wood are also varied and found in many *dinh*. In the central hall of Lien Hiep *dinh* (Ha Tay), a board along the timbering pictures a hunting scene: galloping horses, running men, a barebacked man ready to shoot, and in front of them, a big wild boar with a hind leg held up by a robust arm... The merry hunters have plenty of go.

In such a tropical country crisscrossed by rivers as ours, images of boat races is also common.

On festive days, wrestling, a traditional port, always draws large crowds. One finds in Thi Tang and Lien Hiep *dinh* for example images taken from life. Here, two wrestlers are ready to enter the ring, gesticulating as if they were performing a dance. There in the climax of the bout, they grapple, but one succeeds to grasp the other's legs... The outcome is not important... Losing or winning, both are joyful!

Fencing is also a traditional sport. At Huong Canh *dinh* there is the image of two fencers, stripped to the waist, handling a sword in the right hand and a shield in the other. On a plank at Vua Ba temple (Nghe An) is engraved a regular fencing contest: in a pavilion, the referee with his drum and in front of him, in the courtyard, couples of competing soldiers and officers. The soldiers with bare backs are armed with swords and shields. The officers in field uniforms, were steady on their mounts, their lances couched, while tilting at each other just like in the midst of a battle...

Pictures of women dancers in the plastic arts of that epoch are perhaps the most common. In almost all *dinh* can be seen effigies of women dancers as beautiful as fairies, gracious in flowing pleated skirts.

Feudal customs strictly banned "affairs between boys and girls," but the artists and other people readily broke the rule, as proved by an engraving at Dong Vien *dinh* (Ha Tay). On the shore of a lake, four naked girls are taking a bath. Three young men are teasing them: one is peeping from under a lotus leaf, another is trying to frighten them with a snake, and the third more audacious, is coming closer and trying to fondle the breasts of one of the girls. Love scenes have been carved by skilful hands. Many couples are found in Tay Dang *dinh*. Here, a man caresses the long hair of his sweetheart, both smartly dressed. There, on a piece of wood is carved a half-length portrait of a young couple in an amorous embrace.

Engravings and sculptures did not deal much with historic themes. On the contrary, the latter abound in popular prints in gorgeous and fresh colours and spontaneous and robust strokes, such as "The boy of Giong village galloping on his iron horse, brandishing his ivory bamboo stick," "The two Sisters Trung, Lady Trieu, proudly riding their elephants, charging the Hans, the Ngos," "Ngo Quyen, Tran Quoc Toan commanding the fleet during the Bach Dang battle," or "Le Loi, Quang Trung, majestic on their mounts, pursuing the enemy..."

CHU QUANG TRU

Stockholm Conference :

"THE US WAR IN VIET NAM IS THE CRUELLEST AND MOST INHUMANE WAR EVER KNOWN IN HISTORY"

THE Conference of the International Commission for Investigation of US War Crimes in Indochina opened in Stockholm on Oct. 22. It was attended by prominent figures from Europe, Asia and Latin America, such as Melba Hernandez (Cuba), L. Simirnov (USSR), L. Matarasso (France), L. Basso (Italy), Mark Lane (USA), etc.

Representatives from the DRVN, the NSVN, the Lao Patriotic Front and Free Cambodia also attended.

At the October 23 session of the conference, Swedish lawyer Hans-Georan Frank, representative of the Commission, made a report on the findings of the Commission inquiry team in the DRVN.

Lawyer H.G. Frank told the audience of what he had seen and heard about US savage crimes including wanton killing of civilians and bombing of churches, schools and hospitals. He condemned Nixon as author of thousands of massacres of civilians of the same type as occurred in Son My village (South Viet Nam).

Denouncing the US imperialists and the Saigon puppet administration for ruthlessly repressing the South Vietnamese people, the lawyer said there is every evidence to support the belief that the whole prison regime in South Viet Nam is the symbol of the massive acts of repression perpetrated by the US and the Saigon regime.

Lawyer H.G. Frank concluded: "I can only conclude that the US war in Viet Nam is the cruellest and most inhumane war ever known in history. In many aspects, US troops are much more brutal and savage than the Nazis in World War Two. The US imperialists' aggression and war crimes are continuing and have been expanded to Cambodia. The US continues bombing the DRVN. In South Viet Nam, the US is going all out to destroy everything, burn villages, herd people into concentration camps, murder, imprison and torture those who oppose them, spray toxic chemicals on crops to cause famine and use poison gases against the civilian population. These are the gravest war crimes."

The same day, Prof. Minnkovski produced evidences of the use of banned weapons and chemicals by the US in South Viet Nam.

On October 24, Mark Lane, American lawyer and author of the book *Not Only Son My*, denounced the savage crimes committed by US and Saigon puppet troops in Viet Nam, and concluded that the US war in Viet Nam had taken on the character of extermination of a whole people.

US Troop Withdrawal and Replacement of Thieu - Ky - Khiem Clique Demanded

(Continued from page 1)

the puppet army seems to be put off *sine die* by the Thieu - Ky - Khiem clique. Their leaders, arrested during three previous months, are still in jail.

In October, a big raid was carried out right in Saigon during which over 50,000 people (official figures—*VNC*) were arrested by policemen.

In response to these fascist measures, students and pupils staged many teach-ins and held press conferences against the puppet rulers. Professors of the Faculty of Letters made public a protest against police brutalities. A mutiny erupted in Con Son where political prisoners have been subject to an atrocious regime. The newspaper which let out the news was apprehended by the puppet authorities who denied it; nevertheless further details concerning these events have been given. Disabled men of the puppet army are continuing their staggered hunger-strike and some thirty demobbed soldiers have shaved their hair in protest.

18,000 EMPLOYEES OF AMERICAN FIRM RMK-BRJ DOWN TOOLS

IN defiance of the puppet authorities' ban on all strikes and demonstrations while the staggered hunger-strike of the employees of the *Pacific* enterprise was going on, a walk-out of the RMK - BRJ workers was started on October 12: the labourers of the *Iceland* construction site urged a scaling up of wages in proportion to the rise of price and an end to the unjustified sacking of one of their delegates by the employers. The latter not only refused to meet these claims but even used provocateurs to brutalize and intimidate the strikers; Filipino and South Korean hands were hired by the firm to break the action. The number of protesters reached 15,000 on October 21 and 18,000 five days later. This has brought thirty construction sites to a standstill and, according to Western sources, paralysed the building of important roads, engineering works and military installations contracted by the RMK-BRJ.

SOUTH VIET NAM :

PLAF GAINS IN MEKONG DELTA

One Puppet Battalion and Two Companies Badly Mauled

On October 8, PLAF men decimated a battalion of Regiment 31, puppet Infantry Division 21, operating in Cai Cau region along Road No 40 in Long My district, 170 km southwest of Saigon, and downed two choppers.

On October 15, regional forces intercepted Battalions 3 and 4 of Regiment 33, puppet Infantry Division 21, in Rach Lum hamlet, Khanh Hung village, Song Doc district, Ca Mau province (250km southwest of Saigon): two companies decimated, one routed.

PLAF Storm Go Quao Sub-Sector

On the night of October 9, the PLAF hammered at Go Quao sub-sector in Rach Gia province (195km southwest of Saigon). The patriots occupied the locality, put out of action 150 enemy troops including the commander of the sub-sector and his assistant and 4 American "advisors," and destroyed three 105 and 155mm artillery pieces. On this occasion the inmates of nearby "strategic hamlets" rose up and liquidated many wicked thugs.

A Village and Seven Strategic Hamlets Liberated

After suffering heavy losses, on October 17 a platoon of militiamen evacuated *Tra Dieu* post, Long Thoi village, Cau Ke district, Tra Vinh province. That night, a civil guard company also fled from My Van post nearby. The local people liberated Long Thoi village and seven "strategic hamlets."

A GI captured by a PLAF man on Road No 22 in Long Binh (South Viet Nam).

Enemy torturers captured by insurrectionists.